GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4395
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2001
ACHIEVEMENTS OF WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
ARUN KUMAR

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether development of area and saturation of watershed were not achieved in any State during the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase agricultural production and productivity and overali economic development?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA):

(a) and (b) The Department of Land Resources addresses the task of developing wastelands/ degraded lands for increasing productivity and checking land degradation, ft has been sanctioning new projects under its main programmes namely, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) keeping in view the budget allocation for these programmes. The projects under theseprogrammes have got good response from various States in the country and quite encouraging results have been noticed especially in Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu and Rajasthan etc.

(c) The watershed development projects under the three Programmes seek to improve the productivity of wastelands/degraded lands to grow appropriate bio-mass especially fuelwood and fodder as also to prevent further degradation. Hence agricultural production are generally not feasible on such lands at the first stage of development. However, it has been noticed through the various studies/reports that the implementation of these projects have led to significant improvement in the economic status of the rural people who are living in or around the watershed areas.